

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the non-final Office Action dated October 3, 2007² and is respectfully submitted to be fully responsive to the rejections raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits and allowance is respectfully submitted to be proper.

In the present Amendment, claim 11 has been newly added. Claim 11 depends from claim 1. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification on page 9, lines 10-19 and Figure 1 together with a brief description of the drawing found on page 2, lines 15-24, for example.

No new matter has been added. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-11 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 is directed to a sliding member comprising a slidable substrate and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer provided on one side thereof, wherein the slidable substrate is a porous form comprising a plastic, and a barrier layer is provided between the slidable substrate and the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima et al. in view of Akagi et al.

² The Office Action dated July 12, 2007 was vacated and a Supplemental Office Action was issued on October 3, 2007. The Office issued the present Supplemental Office Action because the Examiner did not consider claim 10, filed April 24, 2007 in the previous Office Action. The time for response has been reset to January 3, 2007.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima et al. and Akagi et al., as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Takahashi.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima et al., Akagi et al. and Takahashi, as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Udea et al.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima et al. and Akagi et al., as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Buccellato et al.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima et al., in view of Akagi et al.

The Examiner asserts that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to produce a porous form as the slidable substrate for the purpose of removing dust particles from the surface of a disk. The Examiner concedes that Kasajima et al. fails to disclose a slidable substrate that is a porous form comprising a plastic as recited in claim 1. According to the Examiner, Akagi et al. alleviates the deficiencies of Kasajima et al.

Applicant traverses the merits of the rejections and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Akagi et al. discloses a head slider made of porous sintered material, such as $3\text{ Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{ SiO}_2$ or SiC impregnated with a lubricant.³ Akagi et al. discloses that the head slider thereof avoids the undesirable adhesion of sticky dust particles.⁴ However, Applicant respectfully submits that Akagi et al. fails to alleviate the deficiencies of Kasajima et al. because the sintered

³ See, Akagi et al. at col. 8, lines 14-37.

⁴ *Id.*

material disclosed in Akagi et al. is not a plastic. In this regard, both Akagi et al. and Kasajima et al. are deficient in that they both fail to teach or suggest a porous form comprising plastic.

Further, Takahashi fails to specify whether the sliding contact member is porous. As described above, Akagi et al. discloses that its head slider made of porous sintered material, such as $3\text{ Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{ SiO}_2$ or SiC. In this regard, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Akagi et al. and Takahashi for the purpose of modifying the magnetic head slider disclosed in Kasajima et al.

Takahashi discloses that the synthetic resin material is superior in sliding performance and abrasion resistance.⁵ Akagi et al. teaches the porous form thereof with respect to porous sintered material, such as $3\text{ Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{ SiO}_2$ or SiC, neither of which comprises a plastic. There is no motivation in the disclosures of the references alone or in combination that would have led a person of ordinary skill in the art to add pores in a synthetic resin material.

Additionally, the slide contact member of the magnetic slider typically has a very small structure. For example, the slide contact member 5 disclosed in Figure 1 of Takahashi appear to have a size of about 1 mm x 1 mm x 1 mm. The porous plastic is not meant for molding such a very small slide contact member. Additionally, if the small contact member is molded by using the porous plastic, it would be difficult to maintain the shape because the porous plastic contains many air holes causing the porous plastic to break up. Therefore, although Takahashi discloses the slide contact member 5, made of resin, it is considered that the slide contact member 5 is

⁵ See, Takahashi at col. 19, lines 23-34.

made of resin which is not a porous resin. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Akagi et al. and Takahashi.

Further, Ueda et al. discloses a seismic isolation sliding support bearing system. The Examiner relies upon Ueda et al. for disclosing a particular porosity. Applicant respectfully traverses because a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to look to Ueda et al. Particularly, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to a seismic isolation sliding support bearing system to produce a sliding member used for recording media. In this regard, Ueda et al. fails to alleviate the deficiencies of Kasajima et al., Akagi et al., and Takahashi.

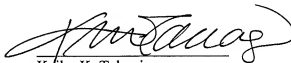
Similarly, Buccellato et al. discloses a pavement marking article and raised pavement marker that uses pressure sensitive adhesive. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to a pavement marking article to produce a sliding member used for recording media. In this regard, Buccellato et al. fails to alleviate the deficiencies of Kasajima et al. and Akagi et al.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the art. Claims 2-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and is therefore patentable over the art for at least all of the above reasons. Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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